

# Christian Courier

A REFORMED WEEKLY, formerly known as *Calvinist Contact*

May 6, 1994/49th year of publication/No. 2399

## Abuse tour sparks first-time stories, false memory questions



Panelists at Salem's annual meeting included therapist Judy Cook, abuse survivor Tina Hoftzyer, and Rev. John Zantingh.

## Seaway chaplain prefers co-operative diaconal witness

**Robert VanderVennen**

VANCOUVER — An ocean-going ship turns in the Vancouver harbor, a vast harbor with docks on both sides of the enormous Burrard Inlet. The ship finds its berth and then calls for help. There is trouble among the crew.

The ship is Brazilian, and its owners have promised to pay the crew their wages in Brazilian money when they return home. But inflation makes Brazilian money worthless on the high seas, and the crew demands U.S. money now.

A call is made to the largest Christian ministry in the Vancouver harbor, which asks Rev.

Simon Wolfert, who lived in Brazil 19 years, to mediate the dispute. He does so, to general satisfaction.

### Strength in literature

Wolfert is a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church, which has ministered to seamen in the Vancouver harbor since the 1960s.

The distinctive strength of the CRC ministry lies in the literature it brings to the ships, mostly Bibles and devotional material in many languages.

There is also the imaginative World Map, prepared by Rev. Jeff Dresselhuys, who was harbor pastor for the CRC in Vancouver for 23 years. You find this map taped to the wall in mess rooms on most ships that enter the harbor. It quotes Genesis 1: "In the beginning God created the heavens, the earth and the sea," and John 3:16.

But Wolfert is new as harbor chaplain, and the scene has changed since the '60s. What turns will the CRC ministry make under Wolfert's leadership?

**Irene Bom**

HAMILTON, Ont. — Have video, will tour.

Ever since the 1992 Christian Reformed Synod pushed the hot potato of abuse onto the plate of local councils and counselling agencies, that's what Al Dreise has been doing in Ontario. So far the director of Salem Christian Mental Health Association in Hamilton, Ont., has made 17 stops with his video and panel discussions.

With frequent first-time confessions of abuse by some audience members, as well as public accusations by others about false memory syndrome,

the evenings have proved to be far more than dry information sessions in most communities.

### Ask questions

A typical session begins with the video "Hear their cries." After that, audiences are invited to pose questions to a panel that includes a local abuse survivor, a therapist and a pastor.

"Most of the questions are by abuse survivors in the audience to the survivor on the panel — questions like, how did she get the courage to go public, how did she deal with her anger," notes Dreise.

Dreise has also fielded questions about false memory syndrome — charges that therapists lead clients to describe abuse scenes that never happened. He says that in "a very small percentage" of cases that may be true, but adds that, twice, the people who publicly denounced stories of abuse had already been accused "by a number of survivors" of being abusers themselves.

Churches that ask him to

come don't get an easy yes from him. "We first ask what kind of follow-up resources they have. We don't want to just barge in and then leave again," says Dreise.

That's needed, he says, because most of the action happens after the meeting: "Sometimes we're kept busy for a full hour afterwards just talking to all the people that come forward — admitting to being abuse survivors or abusers. And we'd better be at the phone the next day, too."

Susan Vanderkooy, a self-declared abuse survivor in Chatham, Ont., says Dreise's recent visit to her area "had a ripple effect" in her congregation of people becoming more aware and more willing to discuss abuse.

"People came up to me afterwards and admitted they had never told anyone they had been abused. I feel wonderful that I was able to help them dare tell someone," says Vanderkooy, 30, who also heads her congregation's committee on abuse awareness.

See **DON'T** p. 3...



The Flying Angel Seamen's Club of the Anglican Church is located in Vancouver's historic Hastings Mill.

evangelism, the conversion of sailors to faith in Christ. The other is that of the social gospel, offering services in the name of Christ.

Wolfert himself appreciates a  
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## News

# Dislikes competing with other ministries

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diaconal approach in the presentation of the Gospel. He wants above all to be available to the seafarers.

## Teaming up with Flying Angels

Wolfert makes his own visits on shipboard — a great many visits. He brings his literature, which is much appreciated. But he doesn't want to be simply another competing Christian salesman.

Wolfert frets about the fragmented and competitive witness of the church there. He bumps into other chaplains when he visits ships. Every church seems to do its own thing, including the Christian Reformed Church.



PHOTO: ROBERT VANDERVENNEN  
Wolfert and Northern Dawn.

Yet many sailors no longer have a Christian background, though 70 per cent today are Filipino, who are Roman Catholic. But others are Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu, or claim no interest in religion. What should the Christian church do?

Wolfert is strongly attracted to the Flying Angel Club, an

Anglican ministry. They have a very long history of representing Christ to ocean-going sailors.

Each morning Wolfert attends the 9 a.m. time of prayer and daily planning at the Flying Angel. They decide together who will visit that day the 25 or so ships in the harbor. Wolfert makes his allotted visits, and often visits other ships as well.

The Flying Angel Club has served the Vancouver harbor since 1856. Sailors can drop in from noon to 11 p.m. every day. There is a beautiful chapel in the building for meditation and prayer, and for a worship service every Sunday evening.

Besides arranging to talk with a chaplain, the seafarers

can buy postage stamps, make international phone calls, do some shopping, drink coffee or beer, watch TV, play pool or ping pong, and just relax.

Club workers arrange to take seafarers shopping. The club is also the centre of the Roman Catholic ministry called *Stella Maris* — Apostleship of the Sea, and Wolfert works cooperatively with its chaplain, Father R. Joncas. He hopes that some day the CRC will have an office at the club, too.

The senior chaplain of the

Flying Angel Club is Rev. Michael Wimmer, who came to Canada from Natal province in South Africa. Wimmer expressed great appreciation at the club's annual meeting in February for the provision of Christian literature by the Christian Reformed Church.

Wimmer thanked Wolfert for "the joy, commitment and openness that you have brought to us in the short time of our association and in the newness of your position as a chaplain in Vancouver."

# Husbands of abuse victims need help too

Irene Bom

HAMILTON, Ont. — Two Christian counsellors are calling for more understanding about men as abuse survivors — either directly or indirectly through a wife who was victimized.

Salem director Al Dreise describes a scene in an Ontario location where he was showing the abuse video "Hear their cries." During the discussion that followed several women had been asking questions about abuse, some identifying themselves as abuse survivors.

Then a man stood up and announced that he, too, had been abused. That announcement "sent shock waves" throughout the room, says Dreise.

That was even true for him, he adds: "It shocked me, too. My mind knew that abuse happens to males as well, but my

heart was not there yet."

Part of the reason for the surprise may have to do with statistics. While researchers say that one out of eight males has been abused (compared to up to one out of three women), the number of males who come forward is "significantly less," according to Dreise.

"Men see coming forward as a sign of weakness, and they have often become abusers themselves. They have a lot of extra issues to deal with," he notes. He is now in the process of looking for support groups for male survivors.

Tiny Hoftzyer pioneered that kind of Christian support group four years ago in her home town of Frankford, near Belleville, Ont. Four or five women usually show up for the 16-week session that she offers twice a year.

Only once has a male survivor signed up.

"When he first came, I thought, 'Oh boy,'" says Hoftzyer. "And it was very hard at first for the other women to have him there. It took several weeks until we got to see him as just another person who had been abused like us."

## Talked to husbands

Men also got involved at another stage. After the women in the group started asking about how her husband Albert reacted, Hoftzyer asked her husband if he would want to talk to the other husbands. He responded by guiding several of the women's husbands through a four-week course.

Toronto therapist Henry Regehr headed a workshop on the needs of persons in intimate relationships with survivors as part of a conference on abuse at Breslau Mennonite Church last weekend. He says that husbands often "need a tremendous amount of interpretation to begin to first, understand, and second, to become part of the healing." He favors couples attending a separate support group together to discuss those issues "rather than separating and pulling away from the partnership."

The issue is important, he stresses. "I don't think there's been enough done on how transference works in these relationships."

## Seafarers ministries began in Europe

Robert VanderVennen

• Ministry to seafarers started in Europe as part of the church's ministry to members of its flock who served aboard ships. The Dutch, British and Norwegians, seafaring nations which had established national churches, were the pioneers.

• British and Dutch vessels often had chaplains aboard ship. Dutch fishing fleets often had a chaplain's ship where worship services were held on board.

• Later this developed into port ministries all over the world. One example of this is the Stella Maris Apostleship of the Sea of the Roman Catholic Church. Another is the Flying Angel Clubs established worldwide.

• The Christian Reformed seaway ministry started in the '60s with the volunteer work of two young men, Hank Verwoerd and Henoch Hennenfeld. As their ministry grew, Verwoerd's father gave considerable time to it. It turns out that Hank Verwoerd and Simon Wolfert married sisters.

• In 1970 Rev. J.E.F. Dresselhuus was called to full-time seaway ministry in Vancouver. He continued until his retirement last year.

• A cadre of volunteer ship visitors grew in ports from Bellin-gham, Washington, to Alaska, including the coastal cities of British Columbia and Vancouver Island. These people receive services, including literature, from the Vancouver CRC seafarers office.

## Survivor calls on churches to draft guidelines

...continued from p.1

But she says that Christians still have a long way to go. "It's wonderful to have these talks. But often the people who need most to hear about abuse don't come."

And that means that surprise may sometimes be needed to get the message across.

Vanderkooy says that her testimony about God's healing to her church last fall was not announced in advance "so that people wouldn't keep their kids away."

"It's awful that we had to do it that way, but I wanted to speak to the children, too," she says.

Dreise says the "increasing number of CRC people coming out with horrendous stories" has cleared the way for his type of panel discussion. "Several years ago the climate was just not right. There was too much denial still," he says.

Vanderkooy says the task now is for churches to draft "very specific" guidelines to prevent abuse — such as not allowing one man to babysit alone in the church nursery, teaching Calvinette counsellors how to handle confessions of abuse and only sending females along "with four-year-old Sarah who has to go pee during her Sunday School class."



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## News

# What has become of the 'Christian' parties of Europe?

David T. Koyzis

Parties calling themselves "Christian Democratic" have long been part of the political landscape in several European and Latin American countries, although their fortunes have waxed and waned over the years. While some of these parties have gained Protestant support, most notably in the Netherlands, the vast majority have found their natural base in the Roman Catholic community.

In the last decades of the 19th century, Pope Leo XIII published several encyclicals (pastoral letters) setting forth the principles of Catholic social teaching. Leo was responding both to the abuses of the Industrial Revolution and to the twin ideological threats of liberalism (with its economic counterpart, capitalism) and socialism (with its preaching of class struggle).

Leo and his followers sought to establish a more Christian "third way" between the extremes of *laissez faire* economics and statist collectivism. This was the inspiration behind the creation of Christian Democratic parties in such countries as France, Germany and Italy.

## Post-W W II heyday

The years immediately following the Second World War

were the heyday of the Christian Democratic parties. In France, Christian Democracy took the form of the *Mouvement republicain populaire* (MRP), a centrist party which sometimes led governments during the unstable Fourth Republic. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and his Christian Democratic Union led West Germany through the period of recovery after the Nazi tragedy.

In Italy Alcide De Gasperi and Amintore Fanfani created the Christian Democratic Party as a coalition of diverse groups who were united by their loyalty to the Catholic Church and by their shared fear of communism.

What happened to these parties? In France, the MRP did not survive the establishment of the Fifth Republic in 1958, its constituency going on to support centrist or conservative parties under the new regime.

In Germany, the CDU became simply another moderate conservative party, toning down its original Christian principles and attempting instead to appeal to as broad a segment of the population as possible. It is expected to do poorly in this year's second post-unification election.

Although Italian Christian Democrats dominated the political scene for nearly half a cen-

tury, two years of corruption scandals, followed by the party's poor showing in the recent election, appear to have finished them off for good. The newly re-christened Popular Party won only a handful of seats in the new Parliament.

## Independent, or an arm of the church?

What went wrong? To begin with, it was never clear to party leaders whether their organizations were independent channels for Christian political action or arms of the institutional church. Were they accountable to their members or to the bishops? If to the latter, then were the parties principally out to defend the rights of the church in their country or were they responsible for implementing the biblical commands to do justice to all? These questions were never satisfactorily answered.

Secondly, leaders were constantly tempted to allow their parties to become pragmatic organizations with little attachment to principles. Sometimes this occurred out of ordinary human motives of greed and lust for power. At other times the toning down of Christian standards came about for fear of losing power to the Communists, as in Italy.

Ironically, history could

## POLITICS

David Koyzis

eventually judge that all three parties passed out of existence because, by compromising their original principles in an effort to gain more support, they effectively made their own continued existence unnecessary.

David T. Koyzis teaches political science at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario, and has one of the largest private collections of bow ties in southern Ontario.

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## Christian Courier

An independent weekly with a Reformed perspective.

Member of Canadian Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.

**Canada mail:** Publications Mail Registration No. 0451. Postage paid at St. Catharines, Ont. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Road, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

**U.S. mail:** Christian Courier (USPS 518-090). Second-class postage paid at Lewiston, NY. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, Box 110, Lewiston, NY 14092.

### Subscriptions:

	Canada (GST incl.)	U.S.A. (GST free)
six months	\$22.25	\$18.00 U.S.
one year	\$39.50	\$32.00 U.S.
two years	\$74.00	\$60.00 U.S.
three years	\$111.00	\$90.00 U.S.
overseas one year	\$125.00 airmail \$75.00 surface mail	

**Advertising deadlines:** display advertising: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.; classified advertising: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. All deadlines are for the following week's issue. See classified pages for more details.

(ISSN 1192-3415) Published weekly on Fridays except for June 3, July 8, 22, 29, Aug. 5, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Dec. 30 by Calvinist Contact Publishing Limited.


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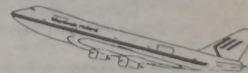
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## Editorial

# Cry, the beloved Canada

People are shocked by some of the crimes that have been committed in Canada of late. It seems that the nature of violent acts committed is changing. There is a sense that crimes are more cold-blooded and random.

A domestic killing is terrible enough, but such an act is often committed in rage by a person who lost control for a tragic moment. But what does one make of a group of Ottawa teenagers driving by in a car and shooting an innocent pedestrian; or the shooting of a woman sitting in a Toronto restaurant by a few hoodlums out for cash; or the beating death of a seven-year-old in Chatham, Ont., by an 18-year-old for who knows what motive? These things are beyond comprehension for most of us. What is happening to our society? we ask.

## Let's have some action

And so the public gets antsy and wants the government to do something. Let's create gun-free cities, one says. Break up youth gangs, says another.

## Christian Courier

Formerly known as Calvinist Contact  
Founded in 1945

An independent weekly that seeks the truth, care and rule of Jesus Christ as it

- reports on significant happenings in the Christian community and the world,
- expresses opinions that are infused by Scripture and Spirit and rooted in a Reformed perspective,
- provides opportunities for contact and discussion for the Christian community.

Editor: Bert Witvoet; General Manager: Stan de Jong;  
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John Pater, Edmonton, Alta.; Robert  
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Calvinist Contact Publishing Limited  
4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, Ont.  
L2W 1A1, Canada  
Tel: (905) 682-8311 Fax: (905) 682-8313

This week we received a letter from a woman who wants all Christians to write their MPs to ask for laws that control guns better, that punish violent crimes more severely and that make young offenders more accountable. We appreciate this woman's concern and can support her action.

But the situation reminds us of what Alan Paton already wrote in 1948 in his novel about South Africa, *Cry, the Beloved Country*. "Have no doubt it is fear in the land. For what can men do when so many have grown lawless? There are voices crying what must be done, a hundred, a thousand voices."

## Nobody knows

Then Paton goes on to describe what these voices want. One calls for more police (applause). Another one says that more police are not the answer but that native people need worthy purposes (applause). Yet another says increased schooling facilities would cause a decrease in juvenile delinquency. Other voices are added: enforce the pass laws, introduce separate recreation places, create separate homelands for blacks and whites.

But the end result is that nobody knows how to solve the problem. Writes Paton:

*We do not know, we do not know. We shall live from day to day, and put more locks on doors, and get a fine fierce dog when the fine fierce bitch next door has pups, and hold on to our handbags more tenaciously; and the beauty of trees by night, and the raptures of lovers under the stars, these things we shall forego.... And the conscience shall be thrust*

*down; the light of life shall not be extinguished, but be put under a bushel.*

## A culture of violence

Cry, the beloved country. Many Canadians are crying about their beloved country. And rightly so. But what has caused this decline in safety and civilized behavior?

One politician was right when he said that there are no easy answers and that we live in a culture of violence. But how did that culture of violence develop?

We need to examine the kind of choices we have made as a society in such important areas as family structure, church attendance, school curriculum, television programs, work environment, news reporting and the like. Here is where the culture of violence has been shaped.

We need to restore a culture of peace, a culture that inspires subjection to a higher order, working to benefit others, reporting positive stories, setting aside a day of worship and rest, giving guidance to children, selecting programs that uphold morality, disciplining and encouraging students in schools, working on marriages, placing less emphasis on rights and more on responsibility. Our culture of violence produces children who feel alienated from life.

We must repent as a nation and come to the source of peace and life: Love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself. We must seek justice and mercy and walk humbly with our God. Nothing less will do.

BW

## The choice is simple: choose life

The benefits of life are not always obvious to us. And that's mighty strange. You'd think that among the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve the value of life is the best understood value of all. But it's not so. How else does one explain the weirdest piece of advice ever given by God to the human race: "Choose life so that you and your children may live."

Saying "Choose life" to a group of people is like saying to a chicken, "Eat this corn so you will survive," or to a robin, "Fly south in the fall so you won't die." Such advice is totally unnecessary. *Of course* the chicken will eat the corn and the robin will fly south. But will we human beings choose life so we may live?

Not necessarily. There is evidence all around us that some of the time and sometimes

most of the time we choose death. Who can explain our sudden bursts of anger, our competitive spirit, the life-destroying practices of a self-serving society, or the war in Bosnia, for that matter, on the basis of the assumption that, of course, we human beings love life and choose life. The assumption is wrong.

And it's wrong because we have not based our analysis on the fact that we human beings are trapped in a fallen condition. And it seems that the more we try to extricate ourselves from the unpleasant consequences of our poor choices, the worse our condition becomes. We have wrapped ourselves in a smog of sin and suffering. And this smog prevents us from seeing the value of life.

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# Each spring flower triggers a memory

Jacoba Bos

During the dark winter months the large window sill in my kitchen is ablaze with brilliant shades of red provided by blooming geranium plants. These geraniums put on their festive outfits already in early summer as they laced the front porch of our century-old home. When I see the plant's cheerful colors in winter, I think back to summer afternoons, languid and relaxing, the air heavy with the scent of freshly cut grass.

Sometimes the first sign of spring comes to our place even before the first robin, in the form of tiny snowdrops which bravely show their pure white heads above the snow-covered ground. We planted only a few of these hardy little bulbs, but they've never let us down in the 20 years they've shared bed and board with more impressive perennials.

We found these bulbs in an old homestead in Holland, the country of our roots. When we see the tender shoots break through the ground, our thoughts go back to the trip we made to the old country, meeting old friends, walking the familiar streets of our hometown but also finding four-lane highways where cattle used to graze.

## Sour and sweet

As the air gets warmer and spring rains replenish the earth, the rhubarb roots soon force their way out of their winter beds to give us a real taste of summer. The roots were given to me by the "Rhubarb Man," so named by our family partly because of the stacks of rhubarb produced by him and partly because of his sour disposition. Yet somehow, while standing in his immaculate garden, leaning on his garden hoe and surveying flourishing rows of beans and lettuce, he seemed to mellow as he shared years of gardening experience and his prolific rhubarb roots. The latter has provided us with many delectable



*"Realizing that these flowers were planted by people who lived a hundred years ago makes one humble and yet hopeful."*

desserts.

The tulips are usually among the first on the scene to welcome the spring season with bright colors and regal stature. These flowers, grown from bulbs imported from Holland, conjure up memories of Sunday afternoon walks through fields of blooming spring flowers. The scent of hyacinths would be wafting through the air as friends and neighbors greeted each other with easy conversations, savoring the tranquility of this one day in the week when all

work stopped.

When the spring bulbs are at their peak, the "family tree" on our front lawn will also burst into bloom. This family tree, which is actually related to the crabapple family, was given to us as an anniversary gift by relatives. When this tree is covered in pink blossoms, we are reminded of the love we share, love which like the apple blossoms covers a host of imperfections.

Beside our house stands the old lilac bush. It has seen many storms.

Numerous blasts of winter winds have weighed down its bent old boughs. But for nearly a century it has survived, shading our kitchen window and supplying us every spring again with fragrant bouquets.

At the foot of the house, in a bed which is seldom made, the peonies grow. These grateful plants have over the past century produced gorgeous pink flowers. Their blossoms have adorned banquet tables at family celebrations and their foliage conveniently kept weeds from taking over their living quarters. Realizing that these flowers were planted by people who lived a hundred years ago makes one humble and yet hopeful.

Spring just wouldn't be complete without the cherry tree coming into blossom like a blushing bride. All too soon these tender flowerettes are swept away by the wind and rain. Still every year we can count on a few days of radiance from this faithful tree, which also has stood the test of time. I sometimes wonder if the former owners ever made just one cherry pie with the fruit of this tree. Only the red-beaked starlings and crows with juice stains on their feathers know the answer to that question.

## Signs of independence

As spring gives way to summer, the irises proudly display their exquisite form and color on their straight stems and strong foliage. When I see these stately flowers, I think back to the neighbor lady who gave the roots of these perennials. "I have to thin them out," she explained, as if she had to give a reason for her visit. "They were in my mother-in-law's flowerbed when my husband and I moved to the farm. So they must be about 80 years old."

My neighbor lady was like the iris in bloom: proud and independent. We had many more visits together, sitting on her front porch in the summer or in her parlor in winter, poring over old photo albums and dusty scrapbooks, reliving memories of one-room school houses and the joys and hardships of farming as newlyweds.

Many seasons have come and gone, bringing us the beauty of bright summer flowers, bountiful fruits and nutritious vegetables from gardens at their peak. And before nature comes to rest, we are treated to a dazzling display of golden fall colors.

Each season is a reminder of God's promise, which is as sure as tomorrow's sunrise. We know that seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter will not cease. And every season we witness this miracle all around us.

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As part of our fallen state we human beings have strong murderous and suicidal inclinations. An unsettling thought.

It means you can't really put your full trust in another person. That other person has something residing within him- or herself that can kill you. In fact, you yourself cannot be trusted fully either. This is not a safe world, and those who zealously pursue an ideology of safety and security are bound to wear themselves to shreds. The best scenario you can hope for is that you can trust some people most

of the time, but you can never trust all people all the time.

Within this setting, it begins to make some sense that God says to us, "Choose life." Choosing life means trying to shake our habits that lead to death. It means getting into harmony with the Creator and with his will for the creation. Choosing life means avoiding anything that displeases God and harms some aspect of the creation. Choosing life means having your evaluation antennae up all the time and refusing to follow a crowd of lemmings.

To help us know what leads to life and what leads to death, God

has given us guidelines in Scripture. And the Holy Spirit makes sure that these guidelines are never out of reach. I like the way God puts it in Deuteronomy 30. You don't have to run up to heaven or scour the sea to find out what my will is, he says to the people through Moses. The command is so near that it's in your mouth and heart.

The choice is simple: life and prosperity or death and destruction. "Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."

BW

Jacoba Bos lives and writes in Strathroy, Ont.



## Building relations important to this insurance seller

On the job...

Does being a Christian make a difference for your job? This column tries to explore that question by allowing readers to peek into the working lives of ordinary Canadians.

NAME: Ron Triemstra  
COMPANY: Brethet Insurance Brokers, Ltd.  
LOCATION: Barrie, Ontario  
JOB: Insurance Broker

### How did you come to sell insurance?

In 1989 a friend in St. Catharines introduced me to the business by offering me a job as an insurance salesman. After a while, I decided to move back to my hometown and I now specialize in selling insurance to small and medium-sized businesses and professionals such as lawyers, retailers, contractors and so on.

### What is your typical work day like?

I start at 7:30 a.m. until about 5:00 p.m. and sometimes put in an evening as well. I work about 10 hours a day.

When I get into the office in the morning I first plan my day.

Then I'm on the road and try to see about 10 to 12 people at their offices. Cold calls. I tell them who I am and what I might be able to do for them.

When I get back into the office, I prepare quotations and do other office work. When I call on prospective clients, they give me the data I need to prepare a report for insurance underwriters working for insurance companies such as Commercial Union or Canadian General. The underwriters, in turn, calculate the cost of the insurance policy based on my quotations.

My work can be stressful. On the one hand, I have to live up to the requirements of the insurance companies I represent, like bringing in a minimum amount of business in order to continue as their representative. On the other hand, I need to serve the best interests of my clients.

Does your job help you live

### your faith?

I meet with many different people and build relationships with my clients. That's what business is all about anyway, I feel — building relationships. Sometimes there is opportunity to discuss faith and Christian lifestyle. You never know when God gives you an opportunity to test your faithfulness in standing up for the gospel.

Insurance agents don't always enjoy a rosy reputation. Some church people also look down on me as an insurance agent. Of course, some agents are aggressive and do "shady deals." But for me as a Christian it is important to be honest and candid.

### What about making a living?

It takes about two to three years to build up a clientele and to earn a living that might sustain a family with children at, say, \$40,000 a year. It takes dedication.

### What do you like best about your job?

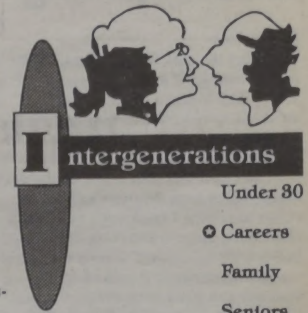
Working with people.

### Is there anything you dislike?

The paperwork (insurance company forms). It can be stressful at times. The job requires wise time-management to avoid becoming a workaholic.

*The opinions expressed in this column are those of the people interviewed and might not reflect average working conditions or career prospects.*

Do you know a Christian worker (paid or volunteer) you admire and would like to see interviewed for this column? Or do you feel you are doing unusual work that might interest young people or unemployed persons? Call



Under 30

• Careers

Family

Seniors



Nandy Heule

Nandy Heule at 988-6174 or the Christian Courier office. Nandy is a writer who helps her clients write their memoirs.

## We must walk on solid ground

The severe criticisms leveled at James A. De Jong, president of Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, in connection with his article entitled "Christian identity and coming out of the closet" (Apr. 1) are unwarranted. De Jong tries to deal courageously with a delicate subject from a biblical perspective. For that he should be congratulated. I for one liked his article. It felt like walking on solid ground instead of walking on sand.

Yes, we do need compassion

and understanding toward homosexuals in our churches. We also need more compassion toward the handicapped (like myself), single mothers, widows, etc. In short, we need more compassion for everyone in the household of God.

But the Bible does call the practice of homosexuality a serious sin, like greed, lust and all the other sins that come out of a sinful heart. The Bible does demand self control. We must show the fruit of the Spirit.

In short, Christ urges his followers, with all their sins and shortcomings, to say Yes to him and No to the world. In a firm voice he says: "Take up your cross and follow me."

May God set our foot on a rock.

Henk Lammers  
St. Catharines, Ont.

## Duct tape saves vacations

An excellent article in your April 22 issue: "Camping, A to Z" by Jacoba Bos! As an experienced camper myself I took delight in reading the "Camping Alphabet Soup."

I must add, though, that under "Tape" the "heavier duty ape" should read "duct tape with filament." My sister repairs all of her camping woes with the stuff. And if it weren't for that duct tape, our Hamilton friends' camping trailer would cease to exist.

Miriam Koopman  
Burlington, Ont.

## Wise words by a journalism prof

Last month I attended the annual convention of the Canadian Church Press, held in Mississauga this year. In one of the workshops Paul Novak, a Ryerson professor of journalism, talked about the role and task of an editor.

We were told that truly effective editors are the gatekeepers of a publication. That's like saying that good editors carry the keys of communication. They let in and shut out whom they will. An awesome responsibility. People don't always like gatekeepers. Sometimes they shout foul things at them through the bars of the gate.

A good editor is the moral conscience of the paper, Novak added. He or she asks tough questions of the writers. Have they done their homework? Are these details correct and substantiated? Is this fact or opinion?

A good editor is willing to take a stance, was the next point. Cowards need not apply. No publication fails so rapidly as a cowardly publication, said Novak with a smile.

The best editor is an able communicator.

A good editor allows his publication to become a forum for ideas.

Finally, Novak explained that papers and magazines are having a hard time surviving and readership is dwindling even for such giants as the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail*. "Your competition is television and specialty clubs," he said.

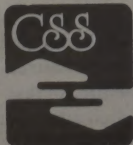
Of course, Novak did not know about the CC Spring 1994 campaign for new subscribers that wants to alter the trend of dwindling readership (see p. 19 in this issue), nor did he know about the editor's promise to abide by the high standards for good editorship.

BW

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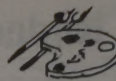
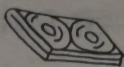
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## Media / Arts



## Christy treats Christianity with respect

Marian Van Tilt

*Christy* is a weekly drama based on Catherine Marshall's extremely popular novel about her mother's turn-of-the-century experiences as a missionary-teacher in Tennessee's Appalachian Mountains.

It took a number of years for *Christy* producer Ken Wales, who is an evangelical Christian, to convince executives at any network to back his show. But he believed he had a good story, and finally, CBS gave the go-ahead for the show. Undoubtedly the network is feeling the sting of competition from cable TV, and of criticism that religion (and especially Christianity) seems to have become a dirty subject.

What is surprising is how

good *Christy* has turned out to be. The production values are first rate. Shooting on location in Tennessee made the show more expensive but gives it an authenticity it couldn't have achieved if the California mountains had stood in for the Appalachians.

The acting, too, is solid, and

often exceptional. Kellie Martin plays the title role; Tyne Daly, late of *Cagney and Lacey*, plays a local Quaker teacher who has a steady influence on the young, sometimes brash *Christy*; Randall Batinkoff catches well the conflict the young preacher experiences between his duty and his emotions; and

Tess Harper plays a quiet but tough mountain woman who gradually gives her friendship to *Christy*. (The positive way in which women are portrayed, despite the servant-like roles they are used to in their mountain community, is also helpful and refreshing.) But particularly impressive are the roles of the mountain people in general — adults and children — who look and act as real and earthy as one would expect that they actually were.

Most exceptional, however, is the fact that faith is allowed to play a major role here. Granted, we see an approach to faith with which Reformed viewers will not always resonate, but it's genuine, it's tangible, and it's not a carica-

ture of what some non-Christian Hollywood writer thinks Christians are like.

CBS has so far committed itself to the pilot movie for the series and six additional one-hour episodes (which are still running on Thursday nights at 8 p.m.). If the show is well-received, more episodes will be made.

Various Christian media watchdog groups are urging Christians who watch and like *Christy* to tell CBS so. Not only might that extend the series, but it may serve to get the network to produce more family fare, and family fare in which religion is acknowledged as a normal and essential part of life.

### Two new TV shows are worth a look

*Christians have been complaining for several decades that commercial network television ignores them — or when it doesn't, that it presents them as buffoons or fanatics. Canadians have long had the same complaint about Americans' attitudes towards them. CBS has come up with two unusual shows which should appeal to both groups (groups which overlap, of course).*

## Due South humorously spotlights Canadian/American stereotypes

Another unusual show just starting on CBS (and being made in collaboration with CTV) is *Due South*, a tongue-in-cheek comedy-drama about U.S./Canadian relations. It stars Canadian actor/screenwriter Paul Gross as Fraser, an excessively polite, tried-and-true, by-the-book Mountie, and David Marciano as a self-assured, fast-talking, fast-acting, Italian-American cop in Chicago. The two, through bizarre circumstances, end up working together in the Windy City.

The show is written by expatriot Canadian Paul Haggis, and Canadian actors portray the story's Canadian characters. The story begins with Fraser's father, a revered, life-long Mountie, being shot to death in a snowy expanse in the Yukon. Following the trail of the murderer leads Fraser to Chicago and a temporary position at the Canadian embassy there. (Some powerful Canadian businesspeople had reason to want Fraser Sr. dead, so they do the civilized thing: they hire one of their American neighbors, to whom violence

seems to come naturally, to do the deed).

Fraser and the American cop, though continually confounded by each other's differences, gradually take to each other, and with Fraser's "unofficial" help they find the killers. Though Fraser does the moral thing by turning in a senior RCMP officer who was in cahoots with those who ordered the killing, he has rattled on "one of his own." To cool things down he's permanently assigned to the Canadian embassy in Chicago; there had to be some reason why a northern Mountie ends up in Chicago. (An ongoing inside joke will be apparent to the observant: "Chicago" is really Toronto, and in a nice twist, the "Canadian embassy in Chicago" is really the American embassy in Toronto.

### No cause to take offence

So far, viewers and critics have seen only *Due South*'s two-hour pilot movie, but reaction has been quick — and somewhat mixed — especially from Canadians. One Canadian critic gloated that this is

Canada's in-joke on the Americans, the funnier for being shown on an American network (as well as on CTV). But another critic has called the show "embarrassingly stupid and inept," saying it "makes hay of the True North." *People* magazine in the U.S. gives it an A-.

Taken at face value, it's true that parts of the show may veer towards the inane. But I like its quirkiness, and the humor is more subtle than it first appears. That makes it engagingly different than most network comedy-drama. It takes equal opportunity pot-shots at both American and Canadian foibles — so Canadians certainly shouldn't take offence at it, any more than Americans should.

The subject of national differences between Americans and Canadians and of their attitudes towards each other always seems to be able to spark animated discussion, especially in a mixed crowd; and it's certainly not a subject or setting that has been explored previously by network television. It remains to be seen, however, if *Due South* will maintain and



develop real satirical wit rather than degenerating into farce — and chase scenes on snowmobiles.

If it remains sharp, *Due South* will not only provide a

weekly hour of entertainment but may be able to show viewers on each side of the border what's beyond those stereotypes they have of each other.



Church, Marian Van Til, page editor

## Russian leader vows to keep out western religions

HELSINKI, Finland (EP) — Russian nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has pledged to stop all western religious organizations from operating in Russia if he is made that nation's leader.

"We will stop all western Christians, eastern religions (and) the Muslims," said Zhirinovskiy in a recent interview with Hannu Kaukka of International Russian Radio/TV in Finland. "We don't need religious cosmopolitanism. We will in every way limit all religious activity that is foreign to us."

At the same time the 47-year-old ultra-nationalist leader said that his grandmother was a Baptist and that he has his own religious convictions. As a child, his grandmother forced him to read the Bible to her and she took him to church.

"In school and at college, there was naturally not religious education," Zhirinovskiy continued. "I took two courses in scientific

atheism. That, of course, disrupted the development of faith in me. But inside I always held onto (my) convictions. I myself am an Orthodox, baptized."

### 'Don't interfere'

Zhirinovskiy said that religious tolerance should be practised, within limits. "Let everyone proclaim its own, so to speak, but let them not interfere with each other," he said. "Tolerate and don't interfere in the affairs of other countries. We are not pushing our lifestyles on anyone else."

Zhirinovskiy pointed out that in his book *The Surge Southward* he said that he wanted "the ring of the bells of the Russian Orthodox Church to be heard from the northern sea to the Indian Ocean. The ring is needed for the tranquility of the soul and for the reinforcement of the nation."

He added, "I am not against Christian (churches). I mean mainly eastern religions and the Muslims. Let's say Bap-

tists, Adventists, Lutherans (and) Pentecostals.... Let them co-exist. The only thing I am against is pressuring the Orthodox churches and their priests."

When he was asked what he thought about Jesus Christ, Zhirinovskiy responded, "Well, it is the image of man — God, the ideal for men, that people strive for because he has dedicated himself to serving God."

### Smashes tape recorder

Zhirinovskiy also said that the political leadership of the country, under himself and the Orthodox patriarch of Moscow, would decide which groups would have the right to religious activity.

After the interview in Finland, Zhirinovskiy returned to Moscow, sparking outraged protests when he physically assaulted an ex-colleague who had announced he was quitting the ultra-nationalist's parliamentary faction. When liberal lawmaker Valery

Borschov came to the defense of the victim he, too, was assaulted by Zhirinovskiy, who said he would "see him rot in prison." The incident was recorded by a journalist who witnessed the event, but Zhirinovskiy smashed the tape recorder containing the evidence of the assaults.

The leader, whose party won

almost a quarter of the party vote in last December's parliamentary elections, has voiced his distaste for Jews, has threatened Germany and Japan with nuclear war, and has pledged to revive the Soviet Union and expand Russia's borders into Eastern Europe.

## Chinese-American missionary dies as pilot's son crashes plane

### Andrew Wark

HONG KONG (NNI) — Veteran Chinese-American missionary Daniel Lam was recently killed when the Aeroflot aircraft in which he was flying to Hong Kong crashed over Siberia, killing all 75 passengers and crew members.

The Aeroflot A-310 Airbus crashed in the Altai Mountains near Novokuznetsk, four hours after leaving Moscow. Lam, 53, had boarded Flight SU-593, after visiting the Russian city of Omsk to investigate the possibility of establishing a new theological college there. He was known for his extensive work to develop church leadership in post-Marxist Asian nations.

The disaster reportedly occurred due to gross violation of international air safety regulations. According to Russian Transport Ministry officials quoted by *The Moscow Times*, the 15-year-old son of the Aeroflot pilot was at the cockpit controls at the time of the crash.

The teenager is said to have inadvertently turned off the automatic pilot and knocked the controls, plunging the plane into a steep dive. The plane then dropped 10,000 meters in four minutes, with crew unable to regain control of the plane before it exploded on impact.

### Maverick

Sources in Hong Kong say Lam was en route to Mongolia, where he had established a Bible school in Ulan Bator in 1992. American State Department officials confirmed to his relatives in Colorado that he was a passenger on the fateful Aeroflot flight.

Lam, who was born in Hong Kong and emigrated to the United States in 1963, was the director of the Colorado-based Asian Missions Foundation. Described by his associates as a "maverick missionary pioneer," he initiated theological training seminars and schools in several socialist and post-Marxist nations, including Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mongolia and Russia.

His assertive tactics in establishing projects within such countries periodically attracted criticism from other missionaries. But Lam's passion for training indigenous church leaders in nations closed to traditional missionaries won him the respect of his peers.

"Even as a teenager he was prepared to pay the price for his stand," said a representative of the Chinese Coordination Center of World Evangelism.

### Expelled

In the late 1950s, Lam and six other high school students were expelled weeks before their graduation from a leading Hong Kong Protestant school because they refused to stop "proselytizing" other students.

He went on to become a civil engineer, using business trips to Second and Third World countries to establish contact with local church leaders. In 1990 Lam began full-time missionary work and established the Asian Missions Foundation, networking with international theologians and arranging for them to teach in such nations.

Lam is survived by his wife, Grace. A memorial service was held in his hometown of Englewood, Colorado.

## Prayer event focuses on Muslims

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (EP) — At least one million Christians around the world took part in the recent second annual 30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus, sponsored by Youth With a Mission (YWAM).

The prayer event was staged to coincide with the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. A

total of 110,000 special daily prayer guides, produced in 10 languages, highlighted different topics throughout this high point of the Muslim calendar.

This year's prayer focus involved a wide range of mission agencies and churches, includ-

ing the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and at least one Greek Orthodox church.

The greatest response to the project came in Europe, where 30,000 copies of the booklet were distributed in Switzerland alone, with 10,000 more given out in Germany.

### Will mobilize

"One of the most exciting things has been to see how the church united over this," said Kim Greig from the YWAM office in Queensland, Australia. "It has really brought about a greater sense of unity in many places."

He added, "I think God has used the focus to stir awareness of the Islamic world in a new way, too, and that we can expect to see a new level of mobilization for mission to Muslims as a result. If people don't go, then this move is just going to stagnate."

The month-long prayer campaign was launched to help pave the way for breakthroughs for the gospel among the more than one billion Muslims in the world, for whom there are comparatively few full-time missionaries.

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SDJ



## You will be my witnesses

Some people say that it makes no difference to them whether the things related in the Bible really happened or not. They like the moral emphasis of Christianity and its insistence on love as the heart of God's law. Along with other movements, Christianity has been a positive influence on human civilization, they say.

This sort of patronizing compliment really insults the Lord and his followers. Christianity is not a set of ideas or a new morality but it consists of a number of historical facts: Christ died for our sins, he was buried, he was raised on the third day, and he appeared to witnesses on whose testimony our life and salvation depend (1 Cor. 15:1-11). If their testimony was false, we are lost. If their testimony is true, we are forever safe, forever blessed.

We use the word "witnesses" loosely when we say that all of us have to be witnesses. If we use the word "witness" in the legal sense in which it is used in the Book of Acts, (1:8, 22, 2:32, 3:15, 4:33, 5:32, 10:39-43, 13:31, 22:15, 26:16), you and I can never be witnesses of Jesus. A witness had to be someone who had seen Jesus before his death and after his resurrection. A fully qualified witness was one of the inner circle, who knew Jesus since his baptism by John and who stayed with him until "Jesus was taken up" (Acts 1:21,22).

Paul also became an apostle and witness, but he was a Johnny-come-lately, pulled in by God's sovereign grace. He missed the first part of his training and, among the group of witnesses, he describes himself as one "abnormally born" (1 Cor. 15:8). When Paul defends

his apostleship he appeals to that one basic characteristic that makes a witness: seeing the risen Lord. "Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?" (1 Cor. 9:1).

Our faith is founded on the witness of the apostles. Today we have the apostles' witness to Christ (and their teaching about him) in the form of the New Testament Scriptures. And this is the foundation of Christ's church (Eph. 2:20, 2 Tim. 1:13,14, Heb. 2:3,4, etc.).

### God chose Christ's witnesses

If we consider the great care Christ took in preparing the witnesses to his resurrection (Acts 1:3, 21-23), the story of the Book of Mormon, for example, is unbelievable — apart from all other reasons that make the book suspect. Peter says that the risen Christ did not appear

to others, but only to those who had first witnessed his ministry.

But Joseph Smith says that Jesus appeared to the native Americans, who were the 10 lost tribes of Israel, he claims. In biblical terms such an appearance by Christ would make no sense.

Christ appeared alive only to those who knew he had died. The resurrection proves the effectiveness of his suffering and death for the sins of the world. Therefore he "was seen not by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen," says Peter (Acts 10:41). These chosen few have to bear witness in the courtroom of the world that this crucified and risen Jesus "is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead" (10:43). This apos-

Andrew Kuyvenhoven

CHAPTER  
&  
VERSE



tolic witness is the one and only gospel.

Andrew Kuyvenhoven is a retired Christian Reformed pastor who lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.

## Church membership stable or up slightly, says Yearbook

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — The membership of most of the 10 largest U.S. denominations increased slightly or stayed stable from 1991 to 1992, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the only "top 10" body showing a small loss, according to *The Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches*, released in mid-March.

However, three of the top 10 Canadian denominations showed membership losses of around one to five per cent.

The 32 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican member churches of the National Council of Churches reported a combined inclusive membership of 48,840,745, down from 48,925,442 in the previous year's report, a loss of 0.17 per cent.

### 'Tithing' 2.5 per cent of income?

Per member giving as a percentage of U.S. per capita disposable (after-tax) personal income declined between 1968 and 1991, reported John and Sylvia Ronsvalle in the *Yearbook* article, "The State of Church Giving Through 1991."

While dollars donated indicate how much the church has

to spend, giving as a percentage of income reflects what portion of per capita income was being directed to the church rather than to other areas of members' lives. In 1968, per member giving as a percentage of income for a composite of the denominations studied was 3.09 per cent. By 1985, the level of giving had declined to

2.66 per cent and by 1991, to 2.54 per cent. Benevolences decreased proportionately faster than congregational finances.

Within the set of communications reporting data to the *Yearbook* for 1968-91, six were affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and eight were members of the National Council of

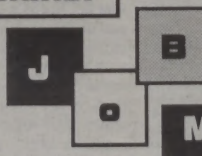
Churches (NCC). The hypothesis that evangelicals give a larger portion of their income to their churches proves to be true. From 1968-91, denominations affiliated with the NAE received a larger contribution from their members than did the NCC denominations.

## Majority of Christians now in southern hemisphere

REHE, Germany (EP) — According to the International Director of the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF), Augustin Vencer, the number of Christians in the Third World is increasing dramatically. In a report to the German Association of Evangelical Missions, Vencer said that 70,000 people daily are becoming Christians. He also said that a majority of the world's Christians are now in the southern rather than northern hemisphere, with two-thirds of the world's 1.8 billion Christians living in the south.

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# This priest is in favor of life — all the way

Bob Ogle

**My relationship to my life is different than my relationship to my book or to my dog or to my farm. I do not have dominion over its termination. That dominion belongs to a higher power. This belief is due partly to my faith, but I think that it is clear to reason as well.**

Even before I was nominated into politics, I guessed that the "life" issues would be of major importance in the agenda. I made my position as clear as possible in my nomination speech: "I will defend human life from its conception until its natural end."

In a document that I distributed during the election campaign and later used in a House of Commons debate, I enlarged on the idea:

*This means that I am opposed to: first, abortion; second, euthanasia; third, capital punishment. I am also against death from starvation, from war or from any other act in which the human right to live is violently taken away from some other person.*

*The human rights that I support are: first, the right to be born; second, the right to adequate food, housing, medical care and education; third, the right to live in at least frugal comfort within one's cultural tradition; fourth, freedom of conscience, worship, expression, political participation and peaceful dissent; fifth, equal treatment in public job markets and courts regardless of sex, age, ethnic origin, marital status, religious or political beliefs, social and economic status; sixth, the right to social assistance when age or other circumstances make self-support inadequate; and seventh, the right to die with dignity. I believe that human rights are all of a piece; ignore one right and you jeopardize all the others.*

**"I am also  
against  
death from  
starvation."**

## Where Svend and I differ

In mid-February, I passed time in southern Texas recovering from a broken shoulder. One afternoon, in a local town, I went to the film *Schindler's List* with my cousin. On the way back to his house we discussed the motivations of a person who in those conditions would try to save a single life.

When we got back to his tourist park, a Canadian radio journalist contacted me by phone and wanted me to comment on Sue Rodriguez's death which had occurred on the weekend. We had heard or seen nothing about it in the U.S. media. I declined comment but decided that I would write something in due course.

Svend Robinson and I came to the House of Commons on the same day in 1979. At that time Svend was the youngest member of Parliament. We sat beside each other for five and half years. We became friends, shared political philosophy, fought the daily battles side by side, but in the "life" issues we remained very different. My friend Svend was pro-choice, supported abortion clinics and now, it seems, supports voluntary euthanasia.

## Illness teaches the gift of life

In the time that has passed since Svend and I sat together in the House, I have been close to death several times. A heart attack, a brain tumor, and



Father Bob Ogle

**"Ignore one  
right, and you  
jeopardize all  
the others."**

polycythemia rubra vera, a terminal blood disease inherited from my mother, has been my lot since 1985. I am more convinced than ever that my "life" position is correct.

During the illness, I realized that my life is a gift, unique and different than any other in existence. I had nothing to do with starting it, with determining my sex, my size, my intelligence, my coloring, all of which were resolved in my mother's womb. I do not own it like I own my car. I believe that I am not free to do away with it if I find it not running as well as it used to.

## Learning from the poor

In the '60s I had the privilege of living with the poor in northeast Brazil. For many in our culture the quality

of the lives of the poor would not be considered worth living. Hunger, disease, bad water, no sanitation, inadequate or no housing added up to what many here would call a desperate situation with no hope. These people taught me what coping was about with the generosity they showed each other.

I believe our culture tries to hide death. Death is looked upon as something that is abnormal. But death is not only normal, it is universal and it is absolute. As a parish priest and later as a missionary in Latin America, I was present with many people when they died. No two deaths are the same. Each is as unique as the person who is dying.

## Exceptions are like cracks in the ice

This is where I stand. I believe that making an exception on the life issue, no matter what, is like cracking the ice in a lake. Once open, many other cases can follow. I am concerned that a person's right to life will not be guarded in every case, and I do not believe that anyone has the final dominion even in his or her own case.

I think about my adult, mentally handicapped niece. Some in society may even now see her as a problem. I fear that some would easily approve of a little more legislation to end her life.

But even more, I think about myself after all those illnesses and all those pains, and realize that suffering is part of everyone's life. I am also aware that as I get older and frailer, my usefulness and happiness will become more fragile.

To that, I answer that I personally believe that my last eight years of illness and approaching death have been my most effective and influential years. I would never have guessed that 20 years ago.

*Father Bob Ogle is a Roman Catholic priest in the diocese of Saskatoon, Sask. He has also been a missionary and a member of Parliament. He is dying of cancer.*

**"Making an  
exception on  
the life issue,  
no matter  
what, is like  
cracking the  
ice in a lake."**



# Reflections

## on Mother's Day

Berta Hosmar

**T**he first time our family celebrated Mother's Day was shortly after the Second World War. In our native

Holland people were trying to start living normal lives again after five horrible years. Mother's Day became popular again and was advertised in stores and newspapers.

My older siblings, who had decided we should fittingly celebrate this important day, started to collect dimes from us, and we had to solemnly swear not to breathe a word of the coming surprise to our mother.

On the Saturday before the big day two delegates were sent to the florist and they came home with a bunch of bright-red tulips, which were duly admired by the rest of us and then put into a vase. We then hid the vase behind the chicken coop.

The next morning we all got up early and dressed quickly in our Sunday best, the younger ones assisted by the older ones. A sister was sent to the parental bedroom to tell our parents not to enter the kitchen yet, while two others set the breakfast table.

Then the big moment arrived. In triumph my mother was escorted to the table, while two kids ran outside to fetch the present.

Alas, nobody had considered our lovesick cat, who roamed around at night looking for a mate. During her prowls she had overturned the vase.

Two crestfallen giftbearers re-appeared, carrying a bunch of the saddest looking tulips you will ever see. Although Mom told us repeatedly that it was the thought that counted, I can still remember the disappointment we felt.

**W**hen I had become an adult, I became more acutely aware of the fact that not every woman who

married would automatically become a mother. My husband's aunt was childless, and though her many nieces and nephews loved her and her husband dearly, that never could have made up for the pain this couple must have felt throughout their married



PHOTO: DEBORAH FRINGOLD

life, wanting children but not having them.

Since in those days married women rarely had a career, Aunt Betty was constantly asked to help out when her sisters had their babies or when someone was sick in the neighborhood or in her church family. "She has nothing to do anyway," was the thoughtless comment people sometimes made.

Aunt Betty revealed some of the pain of her childlessness when, after the birth of our sons, we adopted a baby girl. We moved to Canada many years earlier, but had always kept in contact with Aunt Betty and her husband. Soon after the announcements were sent away, we received a hand-knit little garment and a long letter.

"You know, the thought of adopting a child crossed our minds, too, when we were younger," Aunt Betty wrote.

"However, all our friends and relatives told us we would be taking an awful risk. You never knew what you would be taking into your home and how the child would turn out, they said. As if you know that with children of your own! As you know, adopting a child was not

easy in the Netherlands and was hardly ever done when we were young. We were told all kinds of horror stories about failed adoptions, and I was already so busy helping others. But now I'm sorry. We are getting older, and the lives of friends and relatives are so much richer with children and grandchildren!"

Years later, after her husband had died, our aunt remarried. Her second husband had children who immediately adopted Aunt Betty as their second mother. She also became an instant grandmother. During our last visit to the Netherlands, it was heartwarming to see Aunt Betty's joy when she pointed to the pictures of her new family and showed us the color television set she had received on Mother's Day from her stepchildren.

"I never knew it was so precious to have a family. Why do people take it for granted?" she remarked.

**I** remember some precious moments when our own kids were still small and appeared with their often home-made gifts in our bedroom on

Mother's Day. Breakfast was served in bed, and who cared that it often consisted of messy peanut butter and jam sandwiches and watery tea?

And who cared that one of the presents received throughout the years was an extremely ugly, amber-colored glass dog which for years refused to break, no matter how often I "accidentally" dropped it? "It's more blessed to give than to receive," said my seven-year-old son solemnly when he handed me the dime-store animal and observed my joyful response. As my mother said years ago: "It's the thought that counts."

That's also what I said when my fourth child recited the same Mother's Day poem her three brothers had droned to me when they attended Grade 4. They all had the same teacher in that grade and so four times I was told the virtues of a good mother. The gem began with the words: *She's always sewing buttons on, And mending things I tear, and then went on for many more lines in the same vein.*

**W**

hen our children got

married some Mother's Day celebrations were marred by the grief of some of them. Infertility seems to be more and more widespread, and although after several years God graciously provided by sending a child to one of these couples through adoption, how can we fathom the grief of the many couples who yearn for a child and witness their friends having babies, while their own hopes are dashed time and again?

Adopting a child is very difficult nowadays, and for every child available there are at least a hundred couples who would like to give it a home. Even international adoption is difficult and has many drawbacks. And then there are the women who never marry, yet still yearn for a child of their own.

On Mother's Day I always silently bless the minister who on this festive Sunday thanks God for mothers, but is also sensitive enough to pray for women who have not received the blessings of motherhood.

Berta Hosmar is a writer who lives in Whitby, Ont.

## Secret instructions

Margaret Bunel Edwards

There's nothing like a nutritious breakfast to get our children off to a good start every morning. But what about their minds? Are they nourished with healthy thoughts?

I asked myself these questions as I closed the door behind the last child hurrying off to school. We had had our usual morning meal, complete with a lament over an unfinished project, a couple of frantic searches for library books, and an argument about whether it was cold enough for sweaters. All this was followed by high-pitched commands to pick up the lunch boxes and get outside before the school bus left.

Do you wonder that my hand trembled slightly as I poured another cup of coffee? With dismay, I stared at the calendar. Which appointments and reminders had I jotted down for yet another hectic day?

As I checked the date, nostalgia surfaced. I was suddenly reminded of a very special missions calendar I received the year I was 10. It had a Bible verse printed beside every day of the year.

I smiled, remembering. After taking it home, I had turned immediately to my own birthday. Somehow I felt that whatever verse appeared on my birthday would have special significance for me. I read, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). I was so positive God was for me. I cannot say why but I guess a 10-year-old is permitted to be somewhat presumptuous. At any rate, I thrilled to those stirring words and enjoyed the feelings of confidence they gave me.

Continued on p. 12...



## The Windsor casino: a lose-lose deal

One Sunday in mid-March my wife and I were driving from the Grand Canyon to Los Angeles when around noon, on a lonely desert stretch, we encountered a mile-long line of cars trying to enter an adjoining freeway; the road to Las Vegas, 100 miles to the north. Even that far from the U.S. gambling capital, people were driving, or rather, crawling, to go and experience a new way to lose their wallets.

"The only way to make money in a casino is to own one," and the Ontario government has followed this advice from an old Vegas hand. Specialists in outfitting the first Ontario casino in Windsor are now working overtime to tell builders what to install where.

Special studies carried out in modern gambling palaces have shown that people are first drawn to bright-red slot machines, but that after several minutes they subconsciously tire of red and seek softer colors. So the gambling experts have advised placing the brightly colored machines at the end of long rows of slots, while the more centrally placed "quarter-crunchers" show softer hues like blue and green.

Casino owners also employ psychologists to tell them how to most efficiently relieve people of their money. Ontario's Rae & Co. have been advised to equip the rooms with separate air ducts to blow particular scents into the casino, designed specifically to

make clients feel comfortable. Lighting will be reassuringly bright, and the air will be refreshed every eight minutes to prevent premature tiredness. Who knows? Soon a special Prozac-type of "soft drug" may be part of the air mix to give people that feeling of invincibility.

### Biggest growth industry

Today gambling is the growth industry in North America. It has registered an 1,800 per cent increase since 1976. In 1980 the amount of money spent on education was equal to all money legally gambled away. Now the gambling dollar exceeds the total educational bill on all levels by more than 20 per cent!

## Secret instructions

...continued from p. 11

Each morning after that I read the printed verse and thought about its meaning, secure in the belief that "God was for me."

Perhaps a similar start to the day was the cure for our embattled breakfasts. I opened the book *Biblical Quotations* (Doubleday & Co., 1948) and made a few choices.

Next morning, on the table along with the cereal bowls was another bowl. It contained four folded strips of paper.

The children were quiet as I told them about the missions calendar I had as a child. "Thinking about those Bible verses was exciting and comforting to me when I was young. That's the reason I

selected a few verses for us to discuss as we eat our breakfast. We can try to follow their advice during the day." I picked up the bowl and passed it to the nearest child. "Close your eyes and take a paper," I suggested. "Then we can read them aloud."

I had chosen verses I hoped would help my children to be friendly, honest in dealing with others and cheerful as they went through the day.

Galatians 6:2: "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Proverbs 17:22 states, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

I tried to choose short, easily understood verses. Often my children memorized the verses.

Our "secret instructions," as

we called them, set the tone for the day. In the evening we enjoyed talking about how a special thought had helped us over a rough spot.

Occasionally, a child would mention a problem. "I'll be surprised if there isn't a 'secret instruction' for that," I'd encourage, giving him a hug. Sure enough, a search through the Bible verses always uncovered an answer. After typing the verse, I marked the folded paper "personal" and tucked it under the glass of milk belonging to that child.

We've all experienced long-term benefits since we began this practice around the breakfast table. In a practical way, the children soon realized reading verses from the Bible offered spiritual help with their everyday lives.

Also, no one suffered in silence. Happiness and sorrow, joy and frustration were freely discussed around the table. We learned to be open with one another. Best of all, petty irritations no longer set the tone for the day.

What started as an experiment with "secret instructions" turned into mission accomplished.

Margaret Bunel Edwards is a mother of five and a writer. She lives in Rockcliffe Village, Ont.



Economic

Housekeeping

Bert Hielema



Since the amount of disposable income has basically remained stagnant, this money is sucked out of local communities, away from restaurants, movie theatres, car dealerships, clothing stores and sports arenas, not to mention charitable causes.

There are other, indirect, costs as well. Close to five per cent of the population has a serious gambling problem, and the Windsor casino will accelerate this. Now that gambling is officially legal, and thus, socially acceptable, more people will try it. And some of them will get hooked, especially since modern casinos are now (believe it or not!) featured as exciting family resorts — one reason Las Vegas is so popular. While kids ride the roller coaster their parents "ride" the roulette wheel. Will they eventually go to Gamblers Anonymous together, too?

### A deadly habit

Rapidly rising interest rates are again in the news. In part they can be traced to the low savings rate in North America, now less than five per cent. With the Japanese withdrawing

from the capital market, the home market is unable to supply money needs, so interest rates go up. Instead of saving money, as more personal funds are needed for retirement and for reserves in an increasingly uncertain employment situation, people gamble their future away.

To me, gambling, most evident in casinos, is causing a kind of societal AIDS. It eats away at the very fibre of life and slowly destroys the soul of the nation, already so terribly fragile. No matter how we cut it, casinos deal a lose-lose hand.

Bert Hielema is a frequent ambler and occasional gambler but never a gambler. He lives near Tweed, Ont.

## Mother's immortality.

Words pop up in our speech,  
thoughts calmly expressed,  
that startle us suddenly  
into the awareness  
that these thoughts  
are not ours  
but hers.

They are the very seeds  
of her thoughts,  
the thoughts behind  
her deeds  
that she has sown  
ever since  
she conceived us.

Lini R. Grol

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# Wintery flakes symbolize the cooling comfort of prison gospel

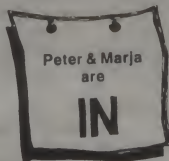
## John Rives

Out of a prison cell at Millhaven Penitentiary came an idea. But the inspiration for that idea arrived from some-

where else. That idea was reconciliation through the medium of the written word—its inspiration gleamed brilliantly from the crystal facets of a

billion snowflakes floating directly from the hands of God.

Ron Dube was looking out that cell window and a cooling solace was carried in through



## Dear Readers:

Today's column invites you to peek over our shoulders to read an exchange we had with one of our readers. Here's what the reader wrote initially, how we responded, and what the writer wrote back.

## Dear P & M (1st letter):

Your views on the annihilation of the wicked explicitly contradict the Reformed confessions. Consider the following: "God is certainly merciful, but he is also just. His justice demands that sin, committed against his supreme majesty, be punished with the supreme penalty — eternal punishment of body and soul" (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 4). And: "The evil ones will be convicted by the witness of their own consciences, and shall be made immortal — but only to be tormented in the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Belgic Confession, Article 37).

I see no way of bringing these two statements into harmony with your statement (CC, Nov. 26, 1993) which says, "While many people picture hell as a place of eternal torment, we understand from these two chapters that God will actually annihilate its inhabitants, as well as hell itself."

## Dear Annihilation of Hell

Regarding the annihilation of the wicked, we just ran with the image in Revelation where everything evil is consigned to the lake of fire (20:10a) and we overlooked the second half of the verse which added, "They will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (20:10b).

We must admit that we didn't check with the confessions on this one and you really opened our eyes to the conclusions that the confessions have made about this. Well, what can we say? We gladly stand reprimanded and retreat to the Reformed position! We are still left with the afore-mentioned image in Revelation, as well as with a question of what purpose could possibly be served by God in prolonging punishment and hell for an eternity. But then we have a human tendency to be curious and to ask questions.

Thanks for keeping us on our toes. Your let-

ter shows some thoughtful research and a solid commitment to the Reformed faith.

## Dear P & M (2nd letter):

Like you, I don't understand why the punishment of the wicked should be everlasting. But the Reformed confessions reflect clear biblical teaching: the judgment of God is final, and the punishment is eternal.

If it is hard to see how a lake of fire can mean anything but complete annihilation, we only need to read Luke 16:24, and also to keep in mind that the "fire" image of hell is one among many images. None of these images can override the frequent use of "eternal" in describing the punishment of the wicked.

To be frank, in a way I would be delighted if Origen, one of the early church fathers, turned out to be right and in the end God's grace transformed and saved every last human, and the fallen angels as well. The biblical evidence, however, is too strong in the other direction.

At times I wonder whether, in the mystery of God's love, there may turn out to be surprises which go beyond the judgments proclaimed in Scripture. After all, Jonah's only message was, "Forty days and Nineveh will be destroyed." It sounded final, with not a word about possible salvation, but this seemingly irrevocable judgment of God was in fact revoked by the mercy of God. So I wonder about the impossible possibilities of grace reaching people even after it's too late, but these are only my private musings.

Meanwhile, God has not given us scriptural warrant to count on another chance to repent after death and be caught up in God's New Creation. Nor do we have warrant to say that the punishment for sin will mercifully end in annihilation. We are bound to proclaim the judgments of God with all the dreadful force and finality of Scripture, and to declare that the only sure way of salvation is to repent and believe in Jesus Christ while it is still the time of God's favor.

Write to: P & M  
c/o Christian Courier  
4-261 Martindale Road  
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

Peter and Marja Slofstra are a pastor and wife team living in St. Catharines, Ont. They are assisted by an advisory panel consisting of Herman de Jong, Bill Ladke, Tom Zeyl, Irene Bom, Marian Van Til and Bert Witvoet.



PHOTO: BERT WITVOET

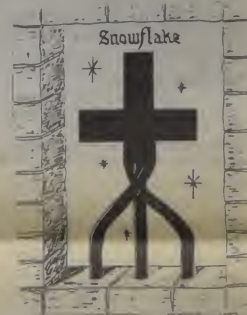
## Ron Dube

walls of stone, rage, hate and despair to calm the turmoil of his heart. He wrote about it.

Ten years later Ron is now the Reverend Ron Dube, ordained through the Congregational Christian Churches in Canada. Still in prison, halfway through the second decade of his life sentence, Ron has been called to a special ministry. Born of the need to bridge the tremendous rifts dividing our society, Snowflake Ministries offers a means for the transmission and sharing of God's healing grace between prisoner and public.

As Snowflake Ministries continues to grow, volunteer staff (including head writer, editor, office manager/treasurer and directing officers) collect, edit and prepare for publication the writings of prisoners and additional relevant material by authors from outside the walls. Printed booklets, pamphlets and bookmarks are then distributed free of charge to any person, church, library or organization requesting them.

According to a statement of purpose, Snowflake Ministries communicates the good news of God's acceptance of all people through Jesus Christ, of God's acceptance of all people through Jesus Christ, offers spiritual freedom to those within prisons of bars or of cir-



cumstances, tries to overcome stereotypes held inside and outside prisons, promotes reconciliation between society and prisoners and encourages church commitment to those in prison.

What can you do about crime? One possibility is to support Snowflake Ministries with prayer, finances and original material for possible publication. Those wishing to learn more about this ministry may address their correspondence to:

Snowflake Ministries  
P.O. Box 1323  
Kingston, Ont.  
K7L 5C6.

John Rives is a published writer and a former inmate.



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	<p><b>Anniversaries</b></p> <p>Vlaardingen Clinton  1949 May 17 1994</p> <p><b>WILLEM(BILL) and MAARTJE(MAE) ROEST (nee VANDER ENDE)</b></p> <p>We thank God for giving our parents and grandparents 45 years of married life together.</p> <p>Jane &amp; Martin Guikema—Strathroy, Ont.  Monica, Rick, Sonya, Jodie Case &amp; Laurie Roest—Nottawa, Ont.  Jeffrey, Robbie, Michelle, Julia Tony Roest—Calgary, Alta  Bill &amp; Liz Roest—Mississauga, Ont.  Daniel, Kyle, Joel, Katie Clarence Roest—Brantford, Ont.  Arnold &amp; Cathy Roest—Clinton, Ont.  Melissa(deceased), Holly, Jenna, Tiffany, Andrew, Dwayne Nellie Roest &amp; Shiraz Rashid—Calgary, Alta.</p> <p>There will be an open house at the Clinton Chr. Ref. Church on Saturday, May 21, 1994, from 2-4 p.m. Best wishes only.  Home address: P.O. Box 974, Clinton, ON N0M 1L0</p>	<p>Paraga, Fr. Stoney Creek, Ont.  1944 May 17 1994</p> <p>"In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." (Prov. 3:6)</p> <p>The Lord willing, we will celebrate with joy and thanksgiving the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents</p> <p><b>JOHN and JELTJE de YOUNG (nee BOOTSMA)</b></p> <p>May God bless you in the years to come.</p> <p>With love from your family:  Juliana Bergsma—Hamilton, Ont.  Andrew &amp; Rosalie (Bradley, Daniel), Alan &amp; Wilma, Joyce, Lisa Henry &amp; Wilma de Young—St. Mary's, Ont.  Stephanie, David, Esther, Daniel Ysbrand &amp; Patricia de Bruyn—Etobicoke, Ont.  Jennifer, Jonathan, Sarah, Mark</p> <p>Open house at John Knox Chr. School, 795 HWY #8, Fruitland, Ont. on May 14, 1994, from 2-4 p.m. Best wishes only, please.  Home address: 25 Glengarry Dr., Stoney Creek, ON L8G 2Y9</p>		
	<p><b>For Rent</b></p> <p><b>BERGENTHEIM</b></p> <p><b>TE HUUR VOOR VAKANTIE:</b></p> <p>Moderne gemeubileerde woning (modern furnished home) — per week of per maand — in Bergenheim, Overijssel (ongeveer 12 km van Ommen).</p> <p>Voor volledige informatie bel of schrijf naar: J. Snijders, 651-4 Ave. E., Brooks AB T1R 0H4. Tel. (403) 362-4052 or (403) 362-2653.</p>	<p><b>Personal</b></p> <p>I am looking for a sincere fun-loving man from Ontario, age 55-60. I am a fun independent Christian gal. To be home or roaming around, I find great. Is there anyone out there who will be my mate? All letters will be answered and kept confidential. Please send letters to File #2618, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Road, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1</p>		
<p><b>Thank You</b></p> <p><b>ALBLAS;</b></p> <p>It is with joy and thankfulness to our heavenly Father that we were able to celebrate our parents' 60th anniversary on March 21st, 1994. We really appreciated the many expressions of your love.</p> <p>Since Mom was taken home to be with the Lord shortly afterwards, we will cherish this memorable occasion all the more.</p> <p>The Alblas family.</p> 				

*Congratulations to Kornelis and Sylvia Siettsma (nee Bosma) on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary!*



## Classifieds

## Anniversaries

## Summer Job Market

## Anniversaries



*Congratulations to Adriaan and Catharina Jooose (nee Barentsen) on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary!*

**ANCASTER, Ont.:** Pre-seminary student at Redeemer College needs work for summer. Looking for jobs in home renovations, decks, trim carpentry, or floorcovering installations. 20 years experience. have operated own business. Willing to sub-contract from home builders. Have van and own tools. I'm 38 years old with wife and four children. Phone (905) 648-9134 ask for George Holthof.

**HAMILTON, Ont.:** 23-year old student graduating with a bachelor of Christian Studies degree in business administration seeking employment anywhere. 3 years secretarial experience. Working knowledge of ACCPac. WordPerfect 5.1 Lotus 1-2-3 and Ultimate Database. Also have experience as a health care aide. Call Marilyn at (905) 389-3072.

**HAMILTON, Ont.:** 19-year-old college bound male seeking summer job. Available June 25. Willing to do indoor or outdoor work, ranging from coalminer to astronaut. Call Fred at (905) 383-0119 in Hamilton, Ont.

**University student in biology and environmental studies** (25 years old), seeking summer employment in Niagara region. Six years secretarial experience. WordPerfect, PlanPerfect, DataPerfect, spreadsheet, AccPac, multi-lingual. Please call 682-9068 (evenings).

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.:** Alison Seinen, student at Calvin College looking for summer employment. Have had experience working with children, but am willing to consider any possibilities. (616) 954-4929.

**MISSISSAUGA, Ont.:** Paula Wubbenhorst (17 years old). Experience includes cash register operation, keyboarding and desktop publishing. Seeking employment in any of these areas. Call (905) 826-2504.

**WILLOWDALE, Ont.:** Student graduating with Honours Economics degree, looking for summer employment in business or finance, but will work at anything. Lawn maintenance experience. Call (416) 221-3396.

## Job Opportunities

**DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MUSIC** part-time  
First Christian Reformed Church of Chatham, Ont. is seeking a person to co-ordinate the music ministry within our congregation. Primary responsibilities include organ playing (pipe) and encouraging the use of musical gifts by members of the congregation. Approx 10 hours a week. For more information, please contact George Rowaan, (519) 354-4342.



*Congratulations to Rinus and Trudy Murre (nee Adriaanse) on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary!*

Wemeldinge St Catharines  
The Neth. Ont.  
1934 May 3 1994

With thankfulness to God we are happy to announce the 60th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

**RINUS and TRUDY MURRE**  
(nee ADRIAANSE)

Tys & Maureen—Beamsville  
John & Marg—Vineland Station  
Audrey & Jim—Ancaster  
eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.  
There will be an open house at John & Marg's home at 4340 - 21st St., Vineland Station, on Saturday, May 7, 1994, from 2-4 p.m.

## Summer Job Market

**CAMBRIDGE, Ont.:** 17-year-old diesel technician student seeking employment on a dairy farm. Experienced in haying, worked on pig farm, and have worked in automotive and small engine fields. Own car. Adaptable, eager to work hard anywhere. Chris Van Dixhoorn at (519) 623-9924.

**GEORGETOWN, Ont.:**  
Hardworking, physically active bicycling fanatic 17-year old girl, desperately looking for a summer job. I'm willing to do anything from farm work to child care, gardening, vacuuming, cooking, housework. You name it, I'll do it. Call Andrea at (905) 877-9998.

## Cottages

Come to beautiful Wasaga Beach and stay at

## ALTON LODGES

Clean 1- & 2-bedroom house-keeping cottages. Friendly family atmosphere, close to beach and river. 20% discount on weekly rates until June 18, 1994.

For information write or phone to:  
**Len & Rita Bette, Alton Lodges**  
459 Mosley St.  
Wasaga Beach, ON L0L 2P0  
(705) 429-2420

## Event

## RETIREMENT

*Henry Bergsma*

is retiring. His relatives and friends are invited to come and celebrate the finish of a race well run.

**DATE: Saturday,**  
**June 25, 1994**

**TIME: Social Hour - 7 p.m.**  
**Program - 8 p.m.**

**PLACE:**  
**Timothy Christian School**  
**49 Ferris Lane**  
**Barrie, Ont.**

Middelburg Samia  
The Neth. Ont.  
1934 June 1 1994  
"Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God our Father."

With praise and thanksgiving to God we are pleased to announce the 60th wedding anniversary of

**ADRIAAN and CATHARINA**  
**JOOOSE (nee BARENTSEN)**

We thank the Lord for the many years he has given them together and being there for us too.

Congratulations from your loving family.

Elly & Henk Visser—Samia, Ont.  
Len & Anne Jooose—Kitchener, Ont.  
Andrew & Gern Jooose—Lethbridge, Alta.

John & Liz Jooose—Kitchener, Ont.  
Lenie & Doug Hokanson—Desboro, Ont.

Bram & Debbie Jooose—Dartmouth N.S.

Cathy & Nick Oosterhof—Wyoming, Ont.

Leah Pool—London, Ont.  
Henk & Susan Jooose—Samia, Ont.  
Wilma & Denis Brazeau—Samia, Ont.  
30 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren

Open house will be held on Saturday, June 4, 1994, from 2-5 p.m. at Redeemer Chr. Ref Church 1232 Blackwell St. Rd., Samia, Ont.  
Best wishes only, please  
Home address 1202 Pontiac Cr. #217, Samia, ON N7S 4M8

## Summer Job Market

If you believe that honesty and integrity far outweigh political correctness, please read the following ad. **RBC student looking for summer employment** paying "Big Bucks". Willing to work hard for it. Tuition isn't cheap these days! Call Tim at (616) 669-9859 before May 7 (905) 934-3547 after May 7

**KINGSTON, Ont.:**  
18-year old student living in Kingston, Ont. wanting a summer job. Able and willing to train and work for any job. Call Terry Smedes at (613) 544-6385 after 6 p.m.

**ST. CATHARINES, Ont.:** 16-year-old student eager to work during summer months. Experienced babysitter but will consider any type of work. Please call Renee Numan at (905) 937-6046.

**NIAGARA REGION, Ont.:**  
**NEED** spring cleaning, lawn cutting, eavestrough cleaning, small painting jobs, or driveway sealing?

Call **MR. ODD JOBS**  
(905) 984-8397

Owned/operated by university student MR. ODD JOBS developed out of frustration with current job market. Thank you for your support




## Classifieds

Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Exchange
		<p>1954 May 7 1994  <b>Great is Thy Faithfulness</b>            With thankfulness and praise to God we hope to celebrate, the Lord willing, the 40th anniversary of our parents and grandparents.  <b>GEORGE and IDA JANSSEN</b>            (nee VAN GURP)            We are thankful to the Lord for His abiding love and faithfulness through these years, and it is our prayer that He may continue to bless them and keep them in His care.            Your loving family:            Joanne &amp; Tony Buist—Norwich, Ont.            George, Shirley            Ida &amp; Ted de Jong—Fergus, Ont.            Emily, Sara            Bemice &amp; Johan de Wolf—Bowlsland, Alta.            Alana, Cameron            Shirley &amp; Ken Talsma—Tillsonburg, Ont.            Nathan, Scott, Michelle, Nicole            Marlene &amp; Dave Lendvay—Burgessville            Bev &amp; Marcel Van Straten—Tillsonburg            Brandon            Open house will be held on May 7 1994 at their residence, R.R.4 Aylmer, from 2-4 p.m.            Best wishes only, please.            Mailing address: R.R.4, Aylmer, ON N5H 2R3</p>	<p>Aalten Fenwick            1949 May 18 1994            "So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone" (1 Sam. 17:50a)            With praise and thanksgiving to God, we hope to celebrate the 45th anniversary of our parents and grandparents  <b>HENDRIK and HERMIEN KORTEN</b>            (BUSSINK)            We pray that God may grant them many more blessed years together            With love from:            Gerald &amp; Joanne Heinen—Niagara on the Lake            William, Richard, Michael            John &amp; Joanne Kortzen—Niagara Falls            Jerry, Mark, Jamie            Bernie &amp; Joanne Kortzen—Dunnville            Daryl, Danielle, Laura            Open house on May 28, 1994, from 2-4,30 p.m., at the Bethany Chr. Ref. Church, 1086 Balfour Rd. Fenwick, Ont.            Best wishes only            Home address: R.R.1, 3436 Canboro Rd., Fenwick ON L0S 1C0</p>	<p>We're looking in the <b>Calgary area</b> for an <b>exchange of vacation possibilities</b>. We offer our home in St. Catharines, Ont., or our car and tent trailer in exchange for a car and trailer or recreational vehicle for the last three weeks in July. We hope to travel through Alberta and BC. If interested, contact Bert and Alice Witvoet at (905) 684-3991 (after 5 p.m.) or at (905) 682-8311 (during office hours).</p>
		<p><b>BOB and GERDA JONKMAN</b>            (nee ZYLSTRA)            Married on May 10, 1969.</p> <p>Dear Mom and Dad,            Somehow we missed your wedding celebration 25 years ago; so today we celebrate your marriage and look forward to many more years together as a family. Congratulations!            Lots of love,            Rob, Jamie, Janice.            "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Prov. 3:5,6)            Home address: 19 Penni Place, Guelph, ON N1H 7L2</p>	<p><b>Anniversaries</b></p> <p>Bergum, Fr. Barne, Ont.            1939 May 11 1994            It is with great joy and thanksgiving to God, we announce the 55th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents  <b>TITUS and MINKE PROCEE</b>            (nee TAEKEMA)            "Of all the gifts God sends us, the large ones and the small the gift of loving parents, is the greatest gift of all."            With all our love,            Elisabeth Roersma            Teena Procee            Maaike &amp; Robert Lines            Stephanie Procee            Marcella &amp; Allan Benson            Special wishes and love from all your grandchildren            Home address: 150 Dunlop St. East, Unit #1002E (Bayshore Landing), Barne, ON L4M 6H1</p>	
<p><b>Job Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>FULL-TIME</b> Position in <b>sow-herd management</b>. If you are an innovative teamplayer, challenged in this field with the ability to succeed, I can offer you an attractive working environment, home and compensation. <b>Ask for Ron Burgema (519) 529-7697 (evenings).</b></p>		<p><b>Teachers</b></p> <p><b>COBOURG, Ont.:</b> Opening for <b>part-time</b> (appr. 30%) <b>Grade 7-8</b> teacher with strengths in language, art, music and P.E. If you are creative, enjoy teaching and love young people, please send application to:  <b>Henry Lise, Principal</b>            Northumberland Chr. School            R.R. 5, Cobourg, ON K9A 4J8</p>	<p>(NC)—The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) assists refugees and victims of war such as this Cambodian boy in Phnom Penh. In 1992, CIDA allocated one million dollars in development assistance to Cambodia.</p>  <p>CIDA Photo: Roger Lemoyne, Cambodia</p>	 <p><i>Congratulations to Titus and Minke Procee (nee Taekema) on the occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary!</i></p>



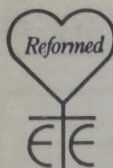
## Classifieds

Obituaries	Obituaries	Job Opportunities	Vacations	Teachers
<p>De Bilt, Utr. Mount Forest, Ont. January 18, 1935 April 14, 1994 "SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL" Something beautiful, something good... All my confusion, He understood. All I had to offer Him Was brokenness and strife, But He made something... beautiful... of my life.</p> <p>"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. Death is swallowed up in victory. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15) The Lord called home</p> <p><b>JAMES (JIM) CLARENCE BAX</b> Beloved husband of Ruth (Pollock) Bax. Father of Heather Bax—Mount Forest and Michelle Bax—St. Catharines. Son of Jack C. &amp; Adriana Bax—Chatham Brother and brother-in-law of: Joanne &amp; William Vanderploeg—Sioux Lookout Mary Hummelen—Chatham Margaret &amp; Albert Herfst—Chatham Gerie &amp; Adrian Wielhouwer—Owen Sound Jean &amp; Peter Van Helden—Chatham Clarence &amp; Lorraine Bax—Thornhill Art &amp; Barbara Bax—Walkerton Bernard &amp; Tina Bax—Samia Hank &amp; Margriet Bax—Thamesford Herb &amp; Jeanette Bax—Thunder Bay Fred Bax—Barrie The funeral service was held at Whites Road Pentecostal Church, Hariston, on April 16, 1994. Interment took place in Maple Leaf Cemetery on April 18, 1994. Memorial donations may be made to Celebrant Singers or Every Home for Christ. Correspondence address: Mrs. J.C. Bax, P.O. Box 1181, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0</p> <p>Enschede, Ov. Grimsby, Ont. March 20, 1913 April 15, 1994 "But from everlasting to everlasting, the Lord's love is with those who fear him." (Ps. 103:17) On Friday, April 15, 1994, the Lord called home to be with Him</p> <p><b>JANTINE LIP</b> (nee VAN DEN BERG) in her 82nd year. Loving wife of the late Henderikus Lip (May 19, 1992) Hank &amp; Evelyn Lip—Grimsby, Ont. Henny &amp; John Rensen—Grimsby, Ont. Seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 19, 1994, at the Mountainview Chr. Ref. Church, Grimsby, Ont., with Pastor P.W. De Bruyne officiating. Interment took place at Queen's Lawn Cemetery, Grimsby. Correspondence address: Hank Lip, 17 Hawthorne Drive, Grimsby, ON L3M 3W1</p>	<p>1916 1994 "The Lord is my Shepherd." (Ps. 23) On April 13, 1994, God granted her wish: the Lord suddenly took our dear sister and sister-in-law, <b>GRACE KEIZER-TIMMERMAN</b> to be with Him. Predeceased by her husband John in 1974, and two brothers Hendrik and Willem in the Netherlands. May the Lord be with her children as they grieve the loss of their mother, but not as those who do not have hope. She often testified to the grace of God which was hers. Her sisters and sisters-in-law: Marie Timmerman-Neutel — Hoozeveen Klazina Timmerman-ten Kate—Ruinerwold Janny &amp; Rinus Maat-Timmerman—Ruinerwold Margje &amp; Roelof Keizer-Timmerman—Ruinerwold Hilly &amp; Henk Janssen-Timmerman—Brampton. Psalm 121.</p> <p>September 8, 1910-April 15, 1994 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, for the Lord God will be with you, wherever you go." (Josh. 1:9)</p> <p><b>MRS. MARIA ALBLAS</b> (nee VANDENASSEME) passed away in Guelph, Ont. on Friday, April 15, 1994, at the age of 83. She is the beloved wife of Mr. John Alblas, who was her faithful companion for over sixty years. Beloved Mom of five children: Margaretha &amp; Jan Jansma—Port Alberni, B.C. Tony &amp; Tena Alblas—Brockville, Ont. Tineke Alblas—Badhoevedorp, The Neth. Jeanne &amp; Markus Lise—Newcastle, Ont. Clarence &amp; Pat Alblas—Brampton, Ont. Beloved Oma of 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held on April 18, 1994, in the First Chr. Ref. Church of Guelph, Ont. Pastor Markus J. Lise officiating. Correspondence address: Mr. J. Alblas, 70 Woodlawn Rd. East, Apt. #109, Guelph, ON N1H 7W7</p> <p>We hereby express our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Rika Van Donk and family with the passing away of <b>MR. JOHN VAN DONK</b> on April 19, 1994. May the Lord comfort them. He will be missed and remembered by the members of the Kitchener Men Society "Pro Rege," of which he was past secretary and active member for many years. "I have called you by name, you are mine." (Is. 43:1b).</p>	<div><div></div><div><p><b>Calvin Theological Seminary</b></p><p><b>Director of Recruitment and Financial Aid</b> Calvin Theological Seminary seeks applications for the position of <b>DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT AND FINANCIAL AID</b>. This full-time position will provide student recruitment for the seminary's degree and other academic programs and coordinate student financial aid.</p><p>Qualifications include some theological training preferably at Calvin Theological Seminary; excellent interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills; self-motivation, and a willingness to travel; ministry experience helpful.</p><p>If interested, submit resume to <b>Connie Bellows, Director of Human Resources, 3201 Burton SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546</b>.</p></div></div> <div><p><b>FACULTY OPENING AT CALVIN COLLEGE beginning September 1995 DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC: CHORAL / THEORY</b></p><p>Calvin College seeks faculty members who affirm the Christian faith as expressed by the Reformed creeds and have academic and personal qualifications for teaching and scholarship. Applications from North American minorities are strongly encouraged. Calvin College is an equal opportunity employer. Interested persons should contact the Music Department by phone at (616) 957-6253 or write: <b>Dr. John Worst, chairman Department of Music, Calvin College 3201 Burton St. S.E. Grand Rapids MI 49546</b></p></div> <div><p><b>LITTLE EUROPE RESORT and TRAILER PARK</b></p><p><b>Bracebridge, Muskoka</b></p><p>Plan a successful vacation at our resort known for its Dutch hospitality. Reasonable rates for cottage rentals. Excellent for camping, swimming and fishing (ideal for group camping). "Little Europe" is located 10 km. east of Hwy. 11, on Hwy. 118 East, past the Muskoka Airport.</p><p>* No pets please * Showers available <b>Roel &amp; Riet Bakema Little Europe Resort, R.R. 3, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1X1 Phone: (705) 645-2738</b></p></div>	<p><b>BURNS LAKE, B.C.:</b> Burns Lake Chr. School is seeking three teachers to take up the challenge of helping our school develop its potential in its second year of operation. Our school has multi-grade classrooms for primary/elementary grades, plus Kindergarten. Please contact us at: <b>Burns Lake Chr. School Box 574 Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0</b></p> <p><b>BRANTFORD, Ont.:</b> Brantford Chr. School invites applications for a <b>43% position in Grades 3 and 4</b> to teach core subjects. We are also looking for a <b>music and French teacher in Grades 5-8 (20%)</b>. Both openings are for the 1994/95 school year and may be combined into one position. Interested applicants may send their resumes, applications and/or inquiries to: <b>Mr. Chris Vander Veen, Principal Brantford Chr. School 7 Calvin St. Brantford, ON N3S 3E4 Phone (519) 752-0433</b></p> <p><b>BRESLAU, ONT.:</b> Woodland Christian High School invites applications for a <b>definite teaching position in History/English and a possible teaching position in mathematics/sciences/computer studies</b>. Please direct inquiries and applications to: <b>Gary Van Arragon, Principal Woodland Christian High School R.R.# 1, Breslau, Ont. N0B 1M0 Phone: (519) 648-2114 Fax: (519) 648-3402</b></p> <p><b>DUNNVILLE, ONT.:</b> Dunnville Christian School invites applications for a <b>15% position in the 1994/1995 school year</b>. A background and qualifications in <b>art or music for grades 5-8</b> would be an asset. Please address inquiries to: <b>Mr. R. Van Egmond, Principal Dunnville Christian School R.R.1 Dunnville, ON N1A 2W1</b></p> <p><b>ORANGEVILLE, Ont.:</b> Orangeville Chr. School invites applications for a <b>definite intermediate/remedial teaching position (50%)</b>. The ability to teach instrumental music would be an asset. Please forward letter of application and resume to: <b>Mr. George Hoytema, Principal P.O. Box 176 Orangeville, ON L9W 2Z6 Phone: (519) 941-3381</b></p> <p><b>WELLANDPORT, ONT.:</b> Wellandport Christian School invites applications for a <b>part-time special education position</b>. This is a <b>30% position (4 afternoons per week)</b>. Those with classroom and/or special education experience are encouraged to apply. Direct applications to: <b>W. Thies, Principal Wellandport Chr. School, R.R.1 Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0</b></p>	



## Classifieds

## Events



## REFORMED ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

*A wedding is a day...  
A marriage is a lifetime!*

An opportunity for couples contemplating engagement or Christian marriage to look openly and honestly at their commitment to one another.

Date: May 20-22, 1994

Location: Pearce Williams Christian Centre  
Iona Station, Ont.

To obtain a brochure or to register, please call:  
Karen & Syl Gerritsma  
Phone: (905) 935-6875

The Board of Directors of the  
CHATHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS  
invites former students, colleagues, and friends  
to an

### Open House in honour of **Aneta Zondervan & Keith Groen**

as they each celebrate  
twenty-five years of teaching  
at Chatham Christian Elementary School.  
Friday, June 3, 1994  
7:30-9:30 PM  
Chatham Christian High School  
90 Park Ave. East  
Chatham, Ontario

### Congratulations

The Board of Durham Christian High School, Bowmanville, Ont., congratulates its Principal, **Ren Siebenga**, on 25 years of faithful service. We invite Society members, friends, former staff and alumni for an evening of celebration and farewell on Saturday, June 11, 1994, 7 p.m., at DCHS. For further information please write or call Durham Christian High School, 340 Scugog Street, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K7, phone (905) 623-5940. R.S.V.P. by May 27, 1994.

## UITNODIGING

24ste Hollandse Dag in York  
D.V. woensdag, 18 mei, 1994, 9:30 v.m.  
Spreeker: ds. H.R. de Bolster  
"Gaaf God ook met pensioen?"

## Teachers

WOODBIDGE, Ont.: Toronto District Chr. High School invites qualified teachers to apply for a possible full-time position consisting of music and another subject area. Please send resumes or address inquiries to:

William Barneveld, Principal  
377 Woodbridge Avenue  
Woodbridge, ON L4L 2S8  
Phone: (905) 851-1772

NANAIMO:  
Nanaimo Christian School requires teacher for Junior High math/science. P.E. an asset.  
Send resume to:  
Brian De Schiffart,  
198 Holland Rd.,  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5K3  
or fax: (604) 754-4512.

## Miscellaneous

## Church News

Christian Reformed Church Calls extended  
—to First, Lethbridge, Alta., Rev. Andrew Joosse of the Reformed Church of America.  
—to Maranatha, St. Catharines, Ont.: Grace, Chatham, Ont.; and Hope, Thunder Bay, Ont.; Rev. Harry Zantingh of Taber, Alta.

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- Wedding Invitations
- Sunday School materials
- Communion Ware
- Videos
- VBS materials

"Well worth a few extra miles"

## Job Opportunities

## Seeking a Pastor

The Christian Reformed Church of Georgetown, Ont., is seeking an ordained pastor to work in team ministry, leading us in preaching, teaching and pastoral care, with proven ability for and commitment to youth ministry. A church profile is available upon request. Contact the Calling Committee, Georgetown Chr. Ref. Church, P.O. Box 45, Georgetown, ON L7G 4T1.

## Event

*25 Jarig Jubileum  
De 25<sup>de</sup> Hollandse Dag in Moorefield*  
wordt gehouden op  
*Woensdag, 8 juni 1994*  
om

10 uur

*in het Community Centre.*

Samenzang, voordrachten, muziek ("Double Dutch") enzovoort.

Spreeker: Ds. L. Schaafsma van Springfield, Ont.

Lunch meenemen en uw eigen koffiekop.

Gratis koffie en gebak.

*Voor gezelligheid en plezierig uitgaan,  
moet je de Hollandse Dag niet overslaan.*

## Real Estate

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VANDERGoot**  
Associate Broker

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anytime

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London, Ontario  
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MAY 6, 1994

## Comment

The pile of mail that awaited me on my return from Europe almost reached the ceiling. In that mail was a friendly communication from the Pilgrims of Saint Michael, who thought it advisable to tell me that Canada's federal income tax is unconstitutional. The Pilgrims also wanted me to know that "the Beast of the Apocalypse is already set up in Brussels, Belgium: it is a giant computer...."

★ ★ ★

There was, however, also the cheerful evidence that the Ontario government is standing on guard: Heather Graves, who is on mother's allowance in Brockville, received a letter saying she owes the welfare system of the province three pennies, following a review of her life.

★ ★ ★

Our Minister of Health, Diane Marleau, is upset with the Alberta government about the issue of private clinics, which are multiplying in the province. The federal Health Minister sees the threat of a two-tiered health care system with the rich not only getting richer, but also getting preferential medical treatment. Ms. Marleau protects the Canada Health Act quite aggressively; she is cutting health care payments to British Columbia because some of the province's doctors have billed patients more than the stipulated fees.

★ ★ ★

Gov. Gen. Ray Hnatyshyn (it always seems to me that His Excellency needs a few more vowels in his name) affirmed once more in Beijing that the Canadian trade policy differs profoundly from that of the U.S. Canada will not link its trade with China with the human rights issue. We will continue to be able to purchase cheap, made-in-China articles which were produced in the country's slave labor camps and prisons.

★ ★ ★

Dutch voters are turning away from the Christian Democratic Union, according to recent polls. The party which participated in governing the country since 1917 is predicted to lose 20 or more seats in the May 3 election.

★ ★ ★

The Dutch *Telegraaf* reported the misfortune of a minister in the Frisian city of Sneek. The reverend had hung his beautiful robe in the usual room following the Sunday services. During the week some of the parishioners used the room for a rummage sale. The minister's 600-guilder robe went for three guilders to some interested purchaser.

★ ★ ★

Anxiety in the Netherlands rose as the stock of Heineken's decreased in the stores due to a strike at the brewery. There was also bad economic news: the number of unemployed people had increased by 18,000 in one month. Since the Dutch were the first to recognize the United States as an independent nation (and were among the earliest settlers on the Eastern seaboard), relations between the two countries have been rather friendly; a Dutch-American Friendship Day is held annually.

★ ★ ★

At the eve of the formation of a new Italian government in which neo-fascists will participate, the country commemorated its liberation from Nazi fascism on April 25, 1945.

★ ★ ★

Indonesia is still a few steps away from a working democracy. The Minister for Internal Affairs announced in an army publication that the independent union SBSI will be banned from now on. The SBSI is supported by the International Union Federation as well as by the labor department of the United Nations.

## World news

Carl D. Tuyl

bytes



★ ★ ★

Third World developing countries spent \$160 billion in 1986 for weaponry, so reported the international Pugwash organization, which was conceived in 1957 by the British philosopher Bertrand Russell. The violence between warring tribes and parties is related to the profits of arms manufacturers and exporters.

★ ★ ★

Somewhere I read a good definition of privatization. It is the process by which the government expropriates public property and then sells it back to the same public who owned it in the first place.

*Carl Tuyl is chaplaincy co-ordinator in Canada for the Christian Reformed Church and is a member of the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care.*

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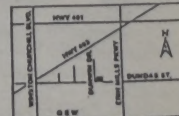
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## News

## Sarnia store sells clothes to buy Bibles

Western idea for mission funds debuts in Ontario



Clara Berg (centre) looks up from her pricing work with Ann Kroontje (l) and Fred Berg (r).

### Bill Van Dyk

SARNIA, Ont. — A new thrift store in this city is offering low-cost clothes and furniture to local shoppers — and Bibles to faraway countries.

The store, located at 110 East Street South, is the first "Bibles for Missions" outlet to open in Ontario. Volunteers from several local churches staff the store and send all the proceeds to The Bible League, based in Weston, Ont.

The first such store opened its doors in the West in May 1989. John Sherman, Bible League office manager, estimates that eight stores in Alberta and B.C., in addition to the new arrival in Sarnia, will by the end of this year top the \$1 million mark in contributions to worldwide Bible distribution. Put another way, the stores have already helped send off more than 262,000 Bibles.

Halba Taekema calls the Sarnia store a "come-and-see pilot project" that he hopes other communities in the province will soon copy. He and his wife Margaret represent Bibles for Missions, a non-profit organization which originated in B.C.

### Draws 50 a day

The 3,000-square-foot store is open five days a week and already draws up to 50 customers a day. Organizers say most customers are looking for bargains to help them through tough times, though antique hunters will also occasionally drop in.

Board member Clara Berg notes that the store has gained a reputation with municipal leaders: the Department of Social Services now regularly refers people to the store.

In Sarnia, 50 to 60 volunteers take turns repairing and cleaning items, setting up displays and tending the cash register.

Cathy Brant joined as soon as she saw the call for help on a church bulletin insert because she believes in the cause and because she "likes to interact with people." Local artist Jenny DeJonge has painted on one of the walls a colorful mural of children from around the world peering into a Bible.

Several doors down from the store, in the same plaza, is a St. Vincent de Paul outlet. Taekema insists that competition has been good for both stores. "There was no decline whatsoever. If anything, there are more people," he adds. "I have always heard that if you want to sell hamburgers, you should locate right next to a MacDonald's."

Notes the manager of St. Vincent de Paul, "There's lots of room in this business for everybody."

### Buying for relatives in Poland

Among the regular customers is a Polish family that visits the store once a month to assemble a package for relatives in Europe. Single mothers with young children also frequently look for bargains in clothing, cribs and walkers. Pricing can be flexible when staff are aware of special needs, say volunteers.

The thrift store is operated by a 12-member local board with representatives from many different church denominations. A campaign of bulletin inserts has garnered the support

of most local churches. Both local newspapers have given them positive coverage.

Interest-free loans were raised to cover start-up costs and have already been repaid. Openings planned for Dun-

can, Smithers, Vernon, and Rocky Mountain House will add to the current list of stores in the West, which includes Abbotsford, Langley, Victoria, Edmonton and Lethbridge.

The Taekemas have already

begun laying the groundwork for stores in Chatham, Woodstock and St. Catharines, Ont. Anyone interested in bringing such a store to their community can call the Taekemas at (519) 542-1102.

## Mennonite thrift store managers told to harness volunteers

WIL-LIAMSBURG, Va. (MCC) — "Ninety-nine per cent of all problems in a shop are management problems," a management consultant boldly declared to the 50 people who recently gathered here for a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S. gift and thrift shop retreat.

"Are you (managers) part of the problem or are you part of finding the solution?" asked Jack Dueck, of People Management Associates, a consultant firm with offices in Grantsville, Md., and Kitchener, Ont.

MCC gift and thrift shops meet both local needs by selling recycled goods and the needs of international artisans by selling Selfhelp Crafts of the World products. In 1993, the 42 shops earned \$1.76 million for MCC ministries. Volunteers from area churches staff the shops.

### Don't fear authority

"Resist an 'us against them' mentality and do not fear to exercise authority. Liberty is only going easy in a harness," Dueck said.

He urged the shop managers, who came to the retreat from seven states, to treat volunteers as they would paid employees. "Volunteers are a jewel in the shop's trophy case," Dueck said. "Hire your volunteers. Provide them with job descriptions. Let them know what is expected. It is the manager's job to keep volunteers from straying from the commitment they have made to the shop."



PHOTOS: BRUCE HILDEBRAND

These volunteers are the "fix-its" in this B.C. Mennonite thrift store.

Some of the managers feared Dueck's no-nonsense approach would drive away volunteers. Others shared situations where Dueck's advice had worked for them.

Dueck was equally direct in

his comments on non-profit boards. Boards should either give managers a "power pack" enabling them to work without much interference or provide ample backing and a safety net to prevent burnout.

